

The Augusta Coin Club Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the Month at the Sunrise Grill, 3830 Washington Rd. Martinez

The Augusta Coin Club since 1959

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Volume 21, Number 9

THE AUGUSTA COIN CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

September, 2021

Our Next Meeting is Thursday, September, 16, 2021, early arrivals 6:00
Due to the Delta variant spreading through the state, please wear face masks inside.

Collecting US Coin Types by Mint Engravers, Part 3

Club Meeting Calendar for 2021

Jan. 21	May 20	Sep. 16
Feb. 18	June 17	Oct. 21
Mar. 18	July 15	Nov. 18
Apr. 15	Aug. 19	Dec. 16

A Popular Commemorative



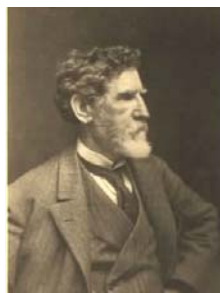
A 1936 Bay Bridge Commemorative 50c piece
Graded MS-64 by PCGS, OGH

Our early US Commemorative coinage were produced from 1892 thru 1954 and during the year, 1936, more commemorative half-dollar issues were struck than in any other year. Most were fairly common while some others were less so, but one of the more attractive commoner commemoratives of the earlier series in the author's opinion was the coin celebrating the opening of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge because by the time the author acquired the coin back in October, 1993, his son, Mark was living in San Francisco and his brother, Dan was residing with his family in Oakland, CA.

The construction of the bridge began during the depths of the Great Depression in July, 1933 and completed in November of 1936. As for the subject of the commemorative, according to Q. David Bowers in his *A Guidebook of United States Commemorative Coins*, a young sculptor named Jacques Schnier, an immigrant from Romania, then living in San Francisco--engraved the coin showing a grisly bear on the obverse and a Ferry Building below at the San Francisco side of the bridge on the reverse, not to be confused with the Golden Gate Bridge. 71,424 coins were released at a cost of \$1.50 each a goodly number of survivors grading MS-62 to MS-64. All issues were struck at the San Francisco Mint. Those certified by PCGS in the early 1990's in the old green holder, are said to have been more stringently graded so the coin shown above might be graded as high as MS-65 today.

The Period Known as our "Golden Age of Coinage"

By Arno Safran



After the assassination of president, William McKinley in 1901, Vice President Theodore Roosevelt became our 26th president and during his second term, forged a relationship with Augustus Saint-Gaudens who was considered to be the greatest American sculptor of the period. One of Saint-Gaudens models was an attractive young woman of color named Hettie Anderson.

Augustus Saint-Gaudens

She grew up in Columbia, SC but later relocated to Manhattan, NYC with her mother and began modeling for various sculptors, one of them being Augustus Saint Gaudens. She was portrayed on various statues during the "Gay Nineties" that have become landmarks of US history and Saint-Gaudens later placed her on the obverse of the \$20.00 gold double-eagle that was first struck in MCMVII with a Roman numeral date and then released into circulation with the Arabic date of 1907, the coin you see below.



Hettie Andersen



A 1907 Arabic date Saint-Gaudens \$20.00 double eagle
Graded MS-62 by NGC

Hettie Anderson shown on the statue at the left
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% for clearer images.]

The Period Known as Our Golden Age of Coinage

(Continued from page 1, column 2)

A Bust of Hettie Anderson which Saint-Gaudens had created earlier eventually was used for the \$10.00 gold Indian Eagle coin.



Bust of Hettie 1907 \$10 Indian Gold

A 1907 Saint-Gaudens \$10.00 gold Eagle graded MS-62 by NGC

In 1907, Saint-Gaudens also introduced a new \$10.00 gold eagle, which replaced Gobrecht's Liberty Head \$10.00 type that was first released away back in 1838. That coin was struck exactly 70 years through the first part of 1907 before being replaced by Saint-Gaudens new Native American design. This time, the renowned sculptor used a Bust of Hettie Anderson facing left that he had apparently created earlier and modified it into the face of a Native American priestess, also facing left with the reverse displaying a more graceful bald eagle. While nowhere near as popular as the \$20.00 coin, it nevertheless shows a refreshing change from the former concept which, despite its attractiveness, had now run its course.



A 1908 \$2.50 quarter eagle graded AU-58 by PCGS
[Enlarge to 150 % or to fill the monitor screen for a better view.]



Bella Lyon Pratt

The difference between Saint Gaudens' \$10 gold eagle and Pratt's two lower denominations despite a different Native American chosen for the \$5.00 and \$2.50 gold coins was that the **new smaller coins were incused** when struck which was revolutionary as the designs were submerged into the metal and tended to wear more slowly.



The Liberty Head and Indian \$5.00 half-eagle coins of 1908
Both certified MS-61

In 1908, 421,874 Half-eagles with the Gobrecht Liberty Head design were coined at the Philadelphia Mint--a "Last Harrah" one would suggest--before switching over to the new Native American head type later in the year, when 577,845 were produced at the Philadelphia Mint and 148,000 at the Denver Mint while only 82,000 were struck at the San Francisco Mint and are far more expensive.

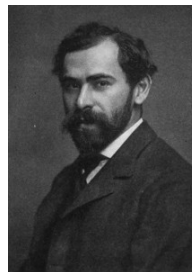
Chief Hollow Horn Bear

Pratt chose **Chief Hollow Horn Bear** as the figure of the Native American on the 1908 \$2.50 and \$5.00 gold coins.



The uncirculated full red 1909 Transitional date cents from
Native American to Lincoln

[Enlarge to 150 % or to fill the monitor screen for a better view.]



Victor David Brenner

Featured above are the last date of the Indian Head cent originally engraved by James Barton Longacre 100 years earlier in 1859 and the first date of the Lincoln cent with one variety showing the tiny VDB initials representing Victor David Brenner at the very bottom of the reverse and the other without those initials at the far right. The examples shown were struck at the Philadelphia Mint because they were far less costly to acquire than the 1909-S Indian Head and 1909-S Lincoln

VDB dates due to their very low mintages of just 309,000 and 484,000 respectively compared with 14 million for the 1909-P Indian cent and 28 million for the 1909 VDB Philadelphia Mint issues. Brenner, a Jewish immigrant from Russia, came to America in 1890 where he lived in New York. He had learned engraving from his father and later, the French master sculptor, Rodin. When President Theodore Roosevelt saw his sculpture of Abraham Lincoln, he recommended that he be the person to create the Lincoln cent in 1909.



Theodore Roosevelt

(Continued on page 3, column 1)

The Period Known as Our Golden Age of Coinage

(Continued from page 2, column 2)

The Five cent nickel coinage of 1913



1913 Type 1 & Type 2 Buffalo nickels graded MS-65 and 64 by PCGS
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% for clearer images.]

Sometime in late 1912 or early 1913, five Liberty nickels were struck in proof at the Philadelphia Mint at the instruction of then, chief coiner, Sam Brown, and for years, the idea that these coins were intended as presentation pieces or whatever by then, Mint Director George E. Roberts, was never verified nor challenged. Decades later, it is now believed that Brown carried out a scheme that enabled him to sell these five pieces at a profit; which through the ages has become one of the most celebrated series of US coin rarities along with the 1804 dollar despite neither type having being intended for circulation.

In all likelihood, the only 1913 nickels struck for circulation as bone fide coins of the realm were the Type One and Type Two reverses on the Buffalo nickels, the first, at left, showing a raised mound with the FIVE CENTS impressed on it, which wore more quickly and the second, shown on the right, with the FIVE CENTS recessed, thus maintaining its visibility over a longer period of the coin's use.

A Beautiful Buffalo nickel



Chief Iron tail in 1912 A 1926 Buffalo nickel graded MS-65 by PCGS
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% for clearer images.]

The Native American/ Buffalo nickel was struck from 1913 thru 1938 and was the workhorse of the economy during its tenure, the entire Roaring 20's and the Great Depression decade of the 1930s that followed. Between 1907 and 1921, a large number of our coinage denominations underwent a renaissance in style in which the Chief Mint Directors were by-passed by talented sculptors and engravers associated with the US Mint. The Buffalo nickel was designed by James Earle Fraser, (1876-1853) another disciple of the great sculptor, Augustus Saint-Gaudens.



James Earle Fraser

The Native American/ Bison nickel is considered "the most American of all our coinage"! During its heyday, a nickel could buy many pleasant items such as an ice cream cone, a candy bar, a box of chewing gum and was ideal for urban transportation since it only cost a **nickel** to ride on the trolley or bus, the elevator train or subway. Today, public transportation in our cities costs \$2.00 to \$2.50. It is also possible for one to collect an entire uncirculated date set.

During the teens and Roaring twenties, the two Branch Mints struck far less coins than the Philadelphia Mint did and they circulated heavily. As a result many those that have either a tiny **D** or an **S** at the bottom of the reverse are scarce to rare in mint-state today. In 1926 the Philadelphia Mint struck 46,693,000 nickels compared with only 5,638,000 at the Denver Mint and just 970,000 at the San Francisco facility, the latter extremely scarce in mint state condition. The 1926-P nickel comes well struck and is affordable up thru MS-65. Chief Iron tail shown alongside it may have been one of the models.

The amazing transitional dates of 1916



1916 Barber, Mercury dimes alongside Barber and SL quarters
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% for clearer images.]

Transitional dates for those unfamiliar with the term are two or more different coin designs sharing the same date. This has occurred numerous times beginning in the third year of our coinage going back to 1795 and continues to this day if you recall the various reverses of the Jefferson nickel obverse and reverses in 2004 & 2005 followed by the four reverses on the Lincoln cent in 2009. **1916** was the final year of the Barber dime yet it was still struck with ample mintages at both the Philadelphia and San Francisco Mints. Later that year, the **Winged Liberty** dime--now called the **Mercury** dime replaced it, also in large mintages *except the Denver mint with only 264,000 coined and is quite rare today*. However, most collectors will find it easy to acquire both 1916 dime types from the other two mints. **The 1916 quarter is another matter.** As with the dimes, both the 1916-P and D Barber quarters are considered common dates thru MS-64 but the Standing Liberty Quarter--with just 52,000 struck late in the year and only at the Philadelphia Mint--is considered scarce to rare in all grades. Ironically, the author obtained the coin shown at the Augusta Coin Club show back in May of 2010 certified MS-62 by NGC.



Adolph Weinman

The two great sculptors who created these more modern coins for the period; were Adolph Weinman for the **Mercury dime** and Hermon MacNeil for the **Standing Liberty quarter**.



Hermon MacNeil

Oddly, until 1946, the current Chief Mint Engravers at the time, Charles Barber, George T. Morgan or John R. Sinnock did not create a new coin type intended for circulation.

(Continued on page 4, column 1)

The Period Known as Our Golden Age of Coinage

(Continued from page 3, column 2)



A 1915-D Barber Half-dollar graded MS-62 by PCGS
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% for clearer images.]

Despite the two design types of silver dimes and quarters struck in **1916**, the final year for the Barber half was **1915**. In that year, the Denver Mint issued the second highest mintage, with 1,170,400 struck compared with 1,604,000 coined at the San Francisco Mint but more 1915-Ds survive in mint state than the 1915-S and it is considered the more common date of the three since the Philadelphia Mint began striking very low mintages of the Barber halves during its final three years with just 138,000 coined in 1915.



Elsie Stevens A 1916-D Walking Liberty Half-dollar graded MS-64
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% for clearer images.]

In 1916, The Walking Liberty Half-dollar was unveiled and has been considered by numismatic scholars to be our second most beautiful coin. As with the *Mercury* dime, Adolf Weinman used the same model for the new fifty-cent piece, Elsie Stevens who was the young wife of Attorney and later well known poet, Wallace Stevens who were renting an apartment in the building Weinman owned.



**Adolph Weinman
In his studio**

The 1916-D example is weakly struck but the one dated 1918 which the author acquired at the Georgia Numismatic Association show back in April, 2012 is not only well struck but looks two grades higher.



A 1918 Walking Liberty Half-dollar graded MS-62 by PCGS

Here's another picture of Elsie Stevens posing for Weinman next to the 1916 Mercury dime.



The Bust of Elsie Stevens facing left and the 1916 Mercury dime
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% for clearer images.]

It isn't often that one can match a coin design type, let alone two of them with the engraver's concept based on an actual real person, but Elsie Stevens's dressed in her bridal gown appears to fit Adolf Weinman's conception of the Walking Liberty half-dollar more adequately than any other photo of her the writer has ever seen while the Bust photo by Weinman of Elsie facing left looks strongly like the Miss Liberty on the obverse of the *Mercury* dime.

The Peace Dollar of 1921



**The 1921 Morgan and Peace dollars
Graded MS-65 and MS-62 respectively**

As a result of the Pittman Act of 1918, which authorized tons of Morgan dollars to be melted into pure bullion, then sent to Great Britain in order to pay for the restoration of their economy after WW I. By 1921, it was time to start replenishing our silver into coins again, so the government not only struck millions of Morgan dollars in all three mints but also upon the urging of Farran Zerbe, a renowned numismatist and a key member of the ANA, suggested the nation create

a new silver dollar representing peace. The Philadelphia Mint struck slightly over one million Peace dollars later in the year. The result provided another transitional date coupling that even in mint state--is not difficult to acquire in the uncirculated grades shown above.



Anthony De Francisci



His wife, Teresa, posed for the coin!

(Continued on page 5, column 1)

The Period Known as Our Golden Age of Coinage

(Continued from page 4, column 2)



**A 1927 Saint-Gaudens \$20.00 gold double eagle
Graded MS-65 by PCGS**

This article ends where it began with the display of the majestic 1927 Saint-Gaudens gold double eagle. With a mintage of 2,946,750, it is considered one of the more common dates of the series (1907 thru '33) but also one of the best struck if not the best struck of all. Fortunately for the author, he acquired this beautiful example two years ago before gold began to rise from around \$1,400 to \$1,800 an ounce. The amazing aspect of this Golden Age of US coinage is that while the assigned chief engravers may have been responsible for the striking of these magnificent coin types, none of them actually created any of the ten denominations from the cent thru the \$20.00 double eagle during this timeframe that began in 1907 and continued through 1938. Oddly, when the Washington quarter was introduced, in 1932--originally as a bicentennial commemorative celebrating our first president's birth--John Flanagan was chosen to create the coin, not Chief engraver, John R. Sinnock, who would later produce and engrave both the Roosevelt dime and Franklin half-dollar. The same can be said for the 1938 Jefferson nickel which was designed by Felix Schlag.

With the introduction of a number of these new design types, minor to more obvious changes were made to replace the initial dates in a number of them. Below is a listing.

- 1) Lincoln cent:** The removing of the engraver's initials, VDB on the reverse in the later striking of the 1909 cents followed by their return in 1918 showing almost microscopic lettering on Lincoln's shoulder on the obverse of the coin.
- 2) Indian Head/ Buffalo nickel:** the switch in 1913 from the Bison's standing on a mound, **Type 1** to a straight line with the word five cents slightly submerged to prevent wear; **Type 2**.
- 3) The Standing Liberty Quarter:** change in hair style, shield and placement of the eagle in 1917 and in 1925, the recessing of the date on the obverse to protect the date from wear.
- 4) The Walking Liberty Half-Dollar:** the removal of the mint marks on the obverse under the date to the reverse where it appears in the lower left edge to the left of the ground under the eagle.
- 5. The \$10.00 gold eagle,** first coined in 1907, without the motto, **IN GOD WE TRUST** to the placing it on the left side of the eagle beginning in the second half of 1908 forging a transitional sub-type.
- 6. The \$20.00 gold double-eagle,** first coined in 1907, without the motto but added later in **1908**, with the motto, **IN GOD WE TRUST** on the reverse just under the rays at the lower portion of the coin also creating a transitional date sub-type.

AUGUSTA COIN CLUB, INC.

MINUTES OF MEETING

August 19, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Sunrise Grill by President, Shelby Plooster. We had 42 members and 2 guests present. Shelby added the meeting to Zoom so everybody look in or participate at the meeting from anywhere.

Secretary's Report:

The July 2021 minutes were not read since they appear regularly in the club's monthly newsletter; a copy kept on file.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was sent by email by Stacey Plooster. We have \$15,909.51 deposited in the checking account.

Prize Winners:

Owen Cannon and Stacy Plooster both won a 2021 Silver Eagle. Winner of the 50/50 raffle was Clay Smith (\$40.00).

Fall Coin Show Nov. 19th (Friday) and Nov. 20th (Saturday) 202, Steven Nix, Bourse Chairmen. The Fall Coin Show will be held at the Columbia County Exhibition Center located at the Grovetown Wal-Mart at Exit 190. The dealers can set up on Thursday night from 4 to 8 pm.

2021 Augusta Coin Club Medallion

The Winner of our 2021 Augusta Coin Token is the Augusta Skyline. They will be on display and will be available at our September 16 meeting



The 2021 Club Medallion showing the Augusta Skyline at the left struck in copper and is on sale to members for \$12.00.
[Enlarge photo to fill monitor screen or 150%.]

Show & Tell:

As archivist of our club, Board member, Joe Bert displayed all the Augusta Coin Club tokens since their inception from 2005 to the present year. That is seventeen years of continuous tokens portraying the CSRA, which also includes two silver issues celebrating the club's 50th anniversary of its incorporation. Thanks' Joe for sharing these with us! (Editor)

(Minutes continued on page 6, column 1)

AUGUSTA COIN CLUB, INC.

MINUTES OF MEETING

August 19, 2021

The Program:

In place of our program, we had a pizza party, enjoyed by all!

Special Guest:

Randy Clark, president of the South Carolina Numismatic Association gave a presentation of the upcoming SCNA State Show located in Greenville, South Carolina on October 29-31, 2021. Programs at the SCNA show will be (1) Coins of the Bible by Wayne Damron, (2) Counter stamp Stone Mountains. Randy also went over the SCNA 2022-50th year specials. Randy Clark also announced that SCNA will give \$300 toward truck rental for club members to come to Greenville.

Old Business:

2021 Club dues \$15.00 per year are due. Perfect attendance for the 2020 and 2021 has been suspended. The 2022 Red Books are on sale for \$10.00 for wire bound and \$12.00 for hard copies. Anyone that gives a program will be eligible for a drawing for a one-tenth gold coin.

New Business:

It was announced that past President Tom McBurney passed away. The club had a moment of silence.

Area Shows:

Spartanburg Show	Spartanburg, SC
August 27-29	
Monthly Atlanta Show	Atlanta, GA
September 12, 2021	
SCNA Show	Greenville, SC
October 29-31, 2021	

Coin Auction:

Glenn Sanders ran the auction (14 lots). John Mason and others delivered the goods as the auction was carried on therefore speeding the auction up. Bids recorder was Tommy Rhoden.

*Respectively Submitted,
John Thomas Attaway*

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